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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PBTS](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [UG](#)

SUBJECT: UPDF ACTIVITY IN KENYA HIGHLY UNLIKELY

REFERENCE: A) KAMPALA 36, 31 and 19

¶1. (SBU) Summary: The GOU has strongly rejected press reports and Orange Democratic Movement allegations that Ugandan forces are active in Kenya. The US Mission in Uganda has seen no evidence of any GOU involvement in western Kenya; to the contrary, the GOU appears to be treating border issues and refugees with great care. End Summary.

Uganda Press and ODM Allege UPDF Activity in Kenya

¶2. (U) The opposition newspaper "Daily Monitor" in a January 10 article reported that Ugandan gunmen shot rioters in Kenya during the post-electoral violence. The report alleged that Kenyan opposition leader Raila Odinga, during a radio interview, said that he called President Museveni to protest the presence of armed Ugandans in Kisumu, Kenya. He claimed that these unidentified gunmen killed a number of Kenyan civilians. Museveni reportedly denied the allegations. Odinga, according to the Daily Monitor, accepted his response and suggested that the "strangers" could have been Kenyan police officers masquerading as Ugandans. Kenyan Police Spokesperson Eric Kirairaihe in a January 13 statement picked up by the Ugandan press denied reports of UPDF activity in Kenya. He said that police investigations into the allegations found no evidence of GOU involvement.

FM Kutesa Denies Press Reports

¶3. (U) Foreign Minister Sam Kutesa in a January 11 press release, called the Daily Monitor's report "inflammatory and insensitive." He denied that the United Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) had deployed in Kenya, and noted that the GOU had come to the aid of hundreds of Kenyan nationals seeking refuge in Uganda. He pledged to redouble GOU efforts to work with all parties in Kenya to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the current crisis, and warned journalists to be more careful in their reporting.

UPDF Scoffs at Reports

¶4. (SBU) UPDF Land Forces Commander Lieutenant General Katumba Wamala told the DATT on January 14 that there are no UPDF soldiers, GOU police, or paramilitary deployed in Kenya. He reported, moreover, that the GOU had decided against sending more troops to the border for fear of raising tensions with the GOK or other factions.

¶5. (SBU) UPDF Spokesperson Major Paddy Ankunda, in a January 15 conversation with PolOff, called the reports "bad" and "unhelpful" journalism. He said that two UPDF platoons in Mbale, Uganda had

been put on alert to respond to any violence within Uganda, but strongly denied reports of UPDF activity in Kenya or around the border area. Ankunda said that no additional troops had been shifted to the border region, adding that Uganda police presence had been strengthened instead.

Comment

[¶6.](#) (SBU) Covert UPDF activity in western Kenya is highly unlikely and we have seen no evidence of any such activity. The GOU is taking great care not to make any major military moves towards the Kenyan border for fear that it might heighten cross-border tensions or further fuel the ODM allegations against the GOU.

CHRITTON